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English Text Society has done much to relieve English scholars of this discredit, but the results of its labors still need to be systematized and put in more popular and accessible form. After commenting on the range of influence of the English language even in 1838—and how much greater now!—Dr. Guest well concludes: "Though it were not our mother-tongue, it would still, of all living languages [or dead, I would add], be the one most worthy of our study and our cultivation, as bearing most directly on the happiness of mankind."

JAMES M. GARNETT.

Sammlung Romanischer Grammatiken. Raetoromanische Grammatik, von TH. GARTNER. 80 pp., xlviii, 206. Heilbronn, Henninger, 1883.

Just as in the rapidly developing science of biology, the student of medicine changes the basis of his investigation with reference to the old school and studies animal life from the standpoint of living forms, so the student of modern languages turns from the fixed forms of written speech to the living dialects to study the historical growth of language in its formative period.

The paramount importance of dialectology for the proper discrimination and classification of any set of language elements is now generally recognized, and constitutes the most striking difference between the leading drift of language-study to-day and ten to fifteen years ago. Before this, the dialects were regarded as rich sources of phonetic law and morphological change, but they were not insisted upon as absolutely necessary to a correct knowledge of the diversified linguistic products which have been gradually moulded and built up into our present systems of complex speech. And nowhere else more than in the Romance languages has late dialect research proved a valuable aid in the solution of grammatical questions, beyond the reach of general principles, which, to a certain extent, are applicable to all the individual members of the group. Hitherto, scientific Romance grammar has dealt only with those literary idioms which constitute to-day the common vehicles of thought for the majority of the Neo-latin peoples. At the present time we demand of it that it represent, in a greater or less degree of fullness, the peculiarities, written and unwritten, of those divers centres of dialect influence which helped to make up the current language. It was, therefore, with a wise perception of our contemporary needs that, as far back as 1878, a movement was set on foot in Germany to publish a series of Romance grammars that should fully embody the spirit and method of research characteristic of the existing state of these studies. The collaborators in the enterprise have worked steadily for five years in the various departments of the field to which they were assigned, and the first to offer us the results of his labors is Prof. Gartner, of Vienna, in his *Raetoromanische Grammatik*, a veritable wonder of untiring patience and industry, and a fine model of scientific dialect investigation. To collect the materials for his work, the author received, first, a year's leave of absence from his academic duties, during which time he travelled over the whole language-territory, noting carefully the differences of idiom on the spot; and then a second term of the same length was granted him to work up his linguistic stock. How well he has done the latter, out of an enormous wealth of forms, no one will be able to appreciate better than the Romance scholar who has

worked himself into the multiform types of the Raetian language through the author's predecessors.

Here, for the first time, we find material covering a total of seventy-six different points in the language-territory, sifted, selected, and distributed in so lucid a manner, both with reference to the spoken and written idiom, and to the different ages of the same, that the scholar can seize with little trouble the main lines of development of the collective group. The territory itself, in its limitations and divisions, is treated in an independent way, and is considerably retrenched as compared with the extent given to it by Ascoli. The latter laid much stress upon the relation of the Raetoromance to the Italian, which Gartner very wisely overlooks, confining himself closely to the domain that he is dealing with, and leaving the other outside idioms to be located in the special grammars that are to follow. In addition, however, to the principal varieties of purely Raetian speech which are constantly compared, and their agreements and differences scrupulously marked, the neighboring *mischdialekte* are taken into account, and form the chief factor in the make-up of those interesting relations that exist between this and more settled types of language. It is to be hoped that the fitting appellation—*Raetoromanisch*—proposed and used throughout this work to denote the whole body of Raetian dialects, will be adopted by scholars generally, and thus end the discussion with reference to the most suitable name for them. The prestige, however, of Ascoli's name, especially in Italy, will be likely to keep up for some time yet his favorite technical term, Ladinian, as applicable to the entire class, and, in this way, lead to confusion. An appropriate restriction, it would seem, of the meaning of this term, which has almost universally crept into works on Raetian philology, would be that used by Ulrich in his *Raetoromanische Chrestomathie*, where it is applied exclusively to the language and literature of the Inn valley as contrasted with the Upper Rhine.

The triple geographical division of the territory into the Grisons, Tyrol, and Friuli species is handy for reference, and the different districts thus easily distinguished by separate and marked characteristics of language. They represent a comparatively limited section on the map of Europe, and the half million of inhabitants comprised in it are not sufficiently strong in commerce or other material pursuits to make them of great importance, were it not for the peculiar position their language holds with reference to the German on the one hand, and to its sister dialect, the Italian (Lombard and Venetian), on the other. Lodged, for the most part, in mountainous regions, where they were shut off from many of the influences that produce changes in the speech of plains and valleys, they have preserved numerous interesting specimens, both in phonology and morphology, of an archaic stage of linguistic forms. Then, again, in the apparently heterogeneous jumble of German and Romance elements in the Grisons and Tyrol divisions, we discover laws of change and interchange which are developed according to fixed principles, and which throw light on what must have been the condition of things in the French proper at the time of the Teutonic invasions. But in the Raetian, of course, the grip of the foreign element has never been loosened by absence of contact, and hence its potential influence becomes the more marked in cases where neither assimilation nor absorption was possible. In all cases, however, the

rank and file of grammar categories have stuck to the direct line of Latin tradition, and have not swerved from it even in parts of the field where they have been beaten back and have given place to the numerically superior forces of the German. .

For all these provinces of the present Raetian domain, the author thinks that he has discovered a gradual tendency to fall away before their more powerful neighbors. Among the Grisons, traces of the physical influence of the Lombard are clearly manifest in the language; but the border dialects, being numerous and very diverse in character, present a very strong concentrated drift towards italianization. On the North it is different. Here the Teutonic power is predominant, and favored, moreover, by the natural configuration of the country, the ultimate displacement of the Romance idioms of the upper Inn and Rhine by the Swiss German is almost certain. In the Tyrol it is the Venetian which is eating into the Raetian territory and little by little driving out the original idiom, while in Friuli the overwhelming pressure of the Italian written language, backed by exclusive official sanction, makes a prediction with reference to the future of this species comparatively easy.

The word-supply of the Raetian dialect set is characteristic in that we find here, besides the ordinary types common to the whole body of Romance speech, a large number of specific Latin forms that exist only in these mountainous districts. It is the western member of the group (the Grisons) that abounds especially in these unique creations, and for this reason as well as for the varied mould of its grammar-classes, its peculiar phrase-settings, and superior literary importance, it offers greater interest to the investigator than either of the other representatives of this stock.

For the phonology, those points are specially noted in this treatise which are common to all the leading dialects, and the chief varieties of sound that belong to the several subdialects and mixed dialects are registered according to a system which enables one to see at a glance where they stand, both with reference to the general phonological phenomena of the set and of any individual member belonging to it. The bulk of phonetic alterations and differences in any given set of dialects thus becomes specialized, and by contrast may be sketched in the mind of the student with more clearness and sharpness of outline. Here the author follows a strict qualitative analysis of the different sound-products, and only treats their quantitative relations as they are affected by the various mechanical processes of prothesis and aphaeresis, epenthesis and syncope, epithesis and apocope. Abundant material is furnished in the texts cited and in the word-of-mouth examples for further and more detailed research into any particular phase of Raetian phonology.

The writer acts the part rather of a pioneer in this branch of his subject, laying down the main lines of investigation that are to be carried out with reference to it, and leaving to others the business of elucidating special and peculiar aspects of it. But it is in the department of morphology where we meet with the greatest originality of treatment and the most extensive array of facts adduced to verify, step by step, the processes of evolution that glide into one another almost imperceptibly in this immense mass of material. For every one of sixty-seven dialect centres, the author's lexicological collection contains three hundred and fifty articles, and for each of his nine *musterdialekte*

he has 1400 articles. The fund of material thus brought together is large enough to trace the life-history of all forms of importance; and so far as certain grammatical orders are concerned, such as the verb, we now have a sufficiently complete scheme to represent all the successive stages of growth, from the earliest written records down to the latest variation of the spoken language. In the West alone are found interesting remnants of the dual-case period of Romance speech, of the neuter gender as an independent grammar form, and of the displacement of accent in certain plural formations (*lâtro*—*latrónes*). For an explanation of special types of this last class, the author is disposed to agree with Prof. Förster, who holds (*Zeitschr. f. r. Philol.* III 566) to the bold theory that alongside of the termination *o*, *onem*, *ones*, there existed another of like character and formation, *a*, *anem*, *anes*, and from the latter he would take such examples as *Donauns*, *Mattauns*, etc.

The ordinary telescoping of Romance grammar forms under the influence of accent and euphony is carefully brought out, and home-grown words are sharply distinguished throughout the work from imported products. It is, however, in the department of the verb that our author has made the most exhaustive collection of forms, and for his nine principal dialects the list is probably well-nigh perfect. Here, more than anywhere else, is the investigator made to feel that, in the plastic period of language, every writer is a full-fledged grammarian. The shifts often resorted to by an author at this time to have a grammar form of his own in preference to that of some one else, is thoroughly characteristic of a stage of language that has not yet cast off its swaddling clothes, and where the supporters of the literary element do not hesitate to snub the patrons of popular speech by rejecting the traditional types of thought-expression, and, in many cases, substituting therefor bungling, uncouth neologisms. For the conjugation scheme we have the common strong and weak verb classes, and, in addition to these, another comprising two divisions, which the author would call *überschwach*. The first of these belongs exclusively to the A-conjugation, is peculiar to the Rhine valley, and is distinguished by wedging in between the root and termination the notable device *-edy-*, which is developed out of *eg*, *ec*, before a vowel and represents the classic *-ic*. The second division covers the simple inchoative suffix *-sc*, which, instead of being hedged in by the limits of the fourth conjugation, is extended to the A-forms in the Grisons, and offers us some points of special interest. Besides the regular legitimate tenses that have been preserved from the Latin, viz. the present and imperfect indicative and the pluperfect subjunctive, the sixteenth and seventeenth century authors, in particular, garnished their respective idioms with a multitude of derivative Latin tense-forms, that clogged and hampered the natural growth by giving it such variety as to prove a burden rather than a help in the expression of thought.

Mussafia, in an article (*Zur Praesensbildung im Romanischen*) published last April in the *Sitzungsberichte der Wiener Akademie*, treats the most noteworthy phases of growth in the present tense, and here we find the first person plural of the I-conjugation taken in tow by *sumus* throughout the Tyrolese territory, and by *habemus* in the Grisons. In the Piemontese dialect and in French we find the first of these processes common to the whole group of verbs; in the Venetian and Lombard dialects the second is followed out. For the

imperfect, it is the Engadine alone that does not stick to the traditional Latin form, *e. g. putreva*. The author has very conveniently arranged all the irregular verbs according to the Latin type; for example, sub *ire, vadere*, we find not only the regular conjugation, but also all the forms collected in the order of person and number, with their numerous equivalents and the dates of their use.

A most valuable supplement, covering twenty-one pages, and a good register end the book. In the former we have placed before us a large number of common words, such as *aqua, bene, bonus, casa, clavis*, and the numerals, running through fifty strictly Raetian and nineteen neighboring dialects. The dialectologist must be fastidious indeed who would not be satisfied with this extraordinary mass of material, where he can study both form and phonetics for almost every shading of every dialect belonging to the group. All moot points touching the language are left unnoticed, and the syntax is not treated at all in this grammar.

A. M. ELLIOTT.

Aeschylus. Prometheus Bound, with Notes and an Introduction, by R. H. MATHER, of Amherst College. Boston, John Allyn, 1883.

No play is better adapted than the Prometheus for use with a class beginning Greek tragedy, and we are prepared to welcome warmly an edition which shall give us the results of the philological study of this play since the publication of President Woolsey's judicious edition, of which the plates now are badly worn. The edition before us contains so much that is good, mainly gathered from different sources, that we hesitate to pronounce it faulty, both in plan and in execution. This judgment seems necessary, however, when we examine the work in detail. If the book did not bear evident marks of elaboration we should ascribe many statements therein to carelessness; if the editor had not been teaching Greek at Amherst College for a quarter of a century, many errors would be ascribed to ignorance. On 806 he translates Πλούτωνος πόνον as 'the ford of Pluto'; spoiling the sense gratuitously, for no translation is needed in the note. He writes, on 725, of the Amazons who 'shall inhabit Themiscyra about Thermodon,' where few boys would imagine that 'Thermodon' was a river, on the banks of which the Amazons were to dwell. An error so inexcusable that we must ascribe it to the demon of the press, although it more closely resembles a freshman's blunder, is in the note on 452; *κατ'ὥρυχες* is translated "burrows or dugout." The printer's devil clearly took this word for a noun.

The editor drops into etymologies occasionally, but generally is unfortunate. Sometimes he drags in an etymology against his will. Thus on *σφίγγε*, v. 58, he is led to mention the Sphinx, and proceeds to connect that word with the English *fox*, referring to Curtius. But Curtius dropped this as untenable at least as early as the last edition of his "Etymology," in 1879. The editor forgets the Attic use of *παρελθεῖν*, and neglects the natural contrast with the Exodos, when he says that the Parodos of the chorus was so named "because the chorus entered from the side of the stage." On 733 he says that *Βόσπορος* is "properly Ox-ford," but at once "hedges" by adding, not quite clearly, that "probably this derivation is confined to Aeschylus, and has no philological connection with the myth of Io; for in all other compounds of *βοῦς* the diphthong is retained."